BRIXWORTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1908.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have much pleasure in submitting to you my SECOND ANNUAL REPORT dealing with the Vital Statistics and the Sanitary Condition of Brixworth Rural District, comprised of 36 Parishes, having an area of 63,608 acres, an estimated population of 11,820 and about 2,900 houses, averaging 4·1 inmates.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.—In 1908, there were 248 births registered, 145 in East and 103 in West Brixworth.

In 1907, 223 were registered as against 248 in 1908, showing an increase for 1908 of 25, or a birth-rate of 20·9 per 1,000, against 18·7 per 1,000 for 1907.

DEATHS.—Total deaths registered in the District in 1908 were 153, *i.e.* 92 for East and 61 for West Brixworth, as against 130 for 1907, showing an increase of 23 and a death-rate of 12·9 per 1,000.

INFANT MORTALITY.—The number of deaths under one year for 1908 were 23, as against 17 for 1907.

The death-rate being 92·7 per 1,000 births registered, as against 76·2 per 1,000 births for 1907.

PHTHISIS.—The deaths registered as caused by this disease were 11, as against 10 for 1907, or a death-rate of ·9 per 1,000, as against ·7 per 1,000 for 1907.

Although slightly higher than last year it is considerably lower than in 1906, when 20 deaths were registered.

There were also 3 deaths from Tubercular Meningitis, which might be put down with Phthisis, being due to the same cause.

RESPIRATORY DISEASES.—The deaths registered during 1908 were 28, the same as in 1907, as against 12 for 1906, or a death-rate of 2·36 per 1,000, as against 1·08 for 1906.

CANCER.—13 deaths were registered for the year, as against 4 for 1907, showing an increase of 9 or a death-rate of 1·09 per 1,000, as against ·33 per 1,000 for 1907.

EAST BRIXWORTH.

CAUSES OF AND AGES AT DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1908.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 year and under 5 years.	5 years and under 15 years.	15 years and under 25 years.	25 years and under 65 years.	65 years and upwards.	Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.
Small Pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	5	...	1	2	1	1	...	*5
Whooping Cough	2	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fever. Typhus	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fever. Enteric	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	*1
Fever. Other, Continued ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Epidemic Influenza	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	†1
Cholera	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhœa	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteritis	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Septic Diseases ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis	11	...	...	...	3	8	...	*4
Other Tubercular Diseases ...	2	...	1	1	...	...	...	*1
Cancer—Malignant	10	...	...	...	...	4	6	†2
Bronchitis	16	3	2	...	...	3	8	†2
Pneumonia	4	2	2	...	...	...	...	...
Pleurisy	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Respiratory Diseases ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Alcoholism—Cirrhosis of Liver ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Venereal Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Premature Births	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Heart Diseases	11	...	...	...	...	4	7	†1
Accidents	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Suicides	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
All other Causes	33	4	1	...	...	4	24	...
Total Deaths ...	103	14	8	3	5	25	48	17

* Non-Residents in Borough Hospital (Isolation). † Residents in Workhouse.

WEST BRIXWORTH.

CAUSES OF AND AGES AT DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1908.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 year and under 5 years.	5 years and under 15 years.	15 years and under 25 years	25 years and under 65 years.	65 years and upwards.
Small Pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scallet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Croup	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fever. Typhus	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fever. Enteric	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fever. Other, Continued ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Epidemic Infiuenza	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Plague	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diarrhœa	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteritis	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Septic Diseases ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis	4	...	...	...	...	4	...
Other Tubercular Diseases ...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
Cancer—Malignant	5	...	...	...	...	1	4
Bronchitis	5	1	...	...	...	1	3
Pneumonia	3	1	...	...	...	2	...
Pleurisy	...	...	...	...	..	...	...
Other Respiratory Diseases ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Alcoholism—Cirrhosis of Liver ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Venereal Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Premature Births	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Heart Diseases	7	...	...	1	...	5	1
Accidents	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
Suicides	1	...	...	...	...	1	...
All other Causes	32	5	..	1	...	4	22
Total Deaths ...	61	9	1	2	...	18	30

TABLE B.

The Year 1908.

DEATHS CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO THE DISTRICTS IN WHICH THEY OCCURRED, AT ALL AGES.

Brixworth	15		Brought forward ...	96
Brixworth Workhouse ...	9		Teeton	1
Pitsford	5		Cottesbrooke	2
Boughton	1		Creaton	3
Brampton, Church	2		Cold Ashby	5
„ Chapel	3		Hanging Houghton	1
Harlestone	6		Maidwell	1
Great Brington	7		Scaldwell	8
Little Brington	2		Old	4
Spratton	8		Walgrave	5
Holdenby	2		Hannington	2
East Haddon	9		Holcot	2
Ravensthorpe	5		Overstone	4
Guilsborough	4		Moulton	26
Naseby	4		Broughton	2
Borough Hospital	12		Lamport	1
Hollowell	2		Hazelbeach	1
Forward ...	96		Total ...	164

TABLE C.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING 1908.

	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 to 5 years.	5 to 15 years.	15 to 25 years.	25 to 65 years.	65 years and upwards.
Diphtheria	2	...	...	2	...	...	...
Erysipelas	14	...	...	...	3	11	...
Scarlet Fever	28	...	7	15	4	2	...
Totals ...	44	...	7	17	7	13	...

TABLE D.

The Year 1908.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED IN EACH SEPARATE VILLAGE.

Spratton	Erysipelas ...	1
Harlestone	Scarlet Fever ...	5
	Erysipelas ...	1
Cottesbrooke	Erysipelas ...	2
Brixworth	Erysipelas ...	3
Lamport	Scarlet Fever ...	2
Hanging Houghton ...	Erysipelas ...	1
Moulton	Scarlet Fever ...	6
	Erysipelas ...	2
Holcot	Scarlet Fever ...	12
Walgrave	Scarlet Fever ...	2
Northampton Borough Hospital	Scarlet Fever ...	1
Great Brington	Erysipelas ...	1
Old	Diphtheria ...	2
Hollowell	Erysipelas ...	1
Teeton	Erysipelas ...	1
Ravensthorpe	Erysipelas ...	1
	Total ...	44

SANITARY REPORT.

In Table A, the deaths returned for "all other causes" number 65. Most of these were due to causes dependent on old age.

There were 18 deaths for the year due to Heart Disease, the great cause of which is Rheumatism, which is largely due to damp houses and also to want of care on the part of the individuals.

Phthisis.—Deaths due to this disease numbered 11, two of the predisposing causes of which are overcrowding and want of fresh air.

Cancer.—This disease is considerably on the increase, there being 13 deaths as against 4 in 1907.

SCARLET FEVER.

28 cases were notified during the whole year, as against 22 for 1907, 17 for 1906, and 45 for 1905.

Of the 28 cases, Holcot is responsible for 12, Moulton for 6, and Harlestone for 5.

Considering the great amount of Scarlet Fever there has been in Northampton, it is surprising there has not been more in the district.

The disease has been of a mild type ; there have been no deaths in the district. Five deaths occurred in the Borough Hospital.

A six weeks' period of isolation was enforced in each case and was properly carried out.

The Schools were closed at Walgrave for 10 days and at Holcot for 3 weeks.

DIPHTHERIA AND MEMBRANOUS CROUP.

Two cases were notified, as against seven for 1907. Both cases were notified at the end of August and occurred in the same house, fortunately in an isolated spot some distance from the village of Old. The house was found to be dirty, overcrowded, and the drain outside the front door blocked, under these circumstances it was not surprising at children contracting Diphtheria.

MEASLES.

There has been no epidemic of Measles in the district in contrast to 1907, when there were extensive epidemics at Holcot, Maidwell, Draughton, Pitsford, Brington and Overstone.

WHOOPING COUGH.

There was an extensive epidemic of Whooping Cough in Moulton in February and March ; Brixworth in March and April ; and Thornby in May. The Schools were closed for 14 days in each village.

VACCINATION.

The number of unvaccinated children is rapidly increasing and will be in great danger should Small Pox break out.

WATER SUPPLY.

There is a good supply of water which is laid on to stand pipes in the streets or into the houses at the following villages : Chapel and Church Brampton, Great and Little Brington, Harleston, East Haddon, and part of Creaton. Hollowell is well supplied through iron pipes, as also Hazelbeech and part of Holdenby. The other part of the district is supplied by wells or springs.

HOUSE ACCOMMODATION.

Six new houses have been erected. Four reconstructed.

Three houses closed as not fit for human habitation.

Four cases of overcrowding have been reported and abated.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

The whole have been visited and inspected.

Fourteen have been reported to the Council—twelve for uncleanliness (abated), one reconstruction, one new cowshed erected.

BAKEHOUSES.

The whole have been visited and inspected.

One new bakehouse erected. Four reported for not limewashing out. Notices served and carried out.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

The whole have been visited and inspected.

Six have been reported to the Council. One re-built. Three cleaned and limewashed. Two standing over. One re-built.

PIGSTYES.

Ten pigstyes condemned.

FACTORIES, LAUNDRIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Have been visited and kept clean and ventilated.

NUISANCES.

272 nuisances have been reported to the Council. Notices have been served and carried out.

SCHOOLS.

These have been visited by the Inspector and a Monthly Report made to the Council on the state of the Closets and Urinals.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Twenty-two Parishes have sewers, which are in fair order.

There are twenty-six filtration areas and two septic tanks with filters. Two with septic tanks only.

About thirty acres of land is laid out for filtration purposes in the various parishes.

FLUSHING OF SEWERS.

This is done by the Council throughout the district every fourteen days.

SCAVENGING.

This is done once a quarter at the following villages: Chapel and Church Brampton. Boughton, Great and Little Brington, Brixworth, Creaton, Cold Ashby, East Haddon, Guilsborough, Harleston, Holcot, Naseby, Old, Pitsford, Ravensthorpe, Spratton and Walgrave.

METHODS OF DEALING WITH INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

By notification, for such as are notifiable, and isolation as far as possible at their own homes.

Disinfection is done by formalin gas and sulphur fumes.

From my Report you will see that the condition of the district, as regards disease and death, has not been so good as in 1907. There have been a few more infectious diseases, considerably more deaths, and an increase of cancer.

I have to thank the Sanitary Inspector for his hearty co-operation, and you, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen, for your courtesy and support.

I am,

Yours obediently,

R. WINTERBOTHAM.